NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST & ASSOCIATED UNITS
MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2003
OCTOBER 1, 2002 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

Prepared by:

Jerry Schumacher, Public Affairs Specialist, Nebraska National Forest—Lead
Greg Schenbeck, Forest Wildlife Biologist, Nebraska National Forest
Mike McNeill, District Ranger, Buffalo Gap National Grassland, Fall River Ranger District
Bob Hodorff, Wildlife Biologist, Buffalo Gap National Grassland, Fall River Ranger District
Bill Perry, District Ranger, Buffalo Gap National Grassland, Wall Ranger District
Jeff Abegglen, Wildlife Biologist, Nebraska National Forest, Pine Ridge Ranger District
Michael Croxen, Rangeland Management Specialist, Nebraska National Forest, Bessey Ranger District
Glenn Moravek, Wildlife Biologist, Fort Pierre National Grassland
Mary Lata, Fire Ecologist, Nebraska National Forest
Kim Earney, Engineering Technician, Nebraska National Forest
Paul Hartman, Human Resources Assistant, Nebraska National Forest
Melody Herbert, Grants and Agreements Coordinator, Nebraska National Forest
Keri Hicks, Archeologist, Nebraska National Forest
Terri Parks, Budget and Accounting Analyst, Nebraska National Forest

APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION

I certify that the Nebraska National Forest and Associated Units Land and Resource Management Plan 2001 Revision (LRMP), is adequate to guide management of the Nebraska National Forest and Associated Units for 2004.

/s/ Janet E. Krivacek (for)

Donald J. Bright, Forest Supervisor

INTRODUCTION

Background

The Nebraska National Forest and Associated Units consists of 1,065,000 acres divided into six administrative units in western Nebraska and western South Dakota, known collectively as the "Nebraska National Forest." The Forest includes two proclaimed national forests--the Nebraska, composed of the Pine Ridge and Bessey Ranger Districts, and the Samuel R. McKelvie, which is managed as part of the Bessey Ranger District. Three national grasslands make up the bulk of the land base. The Oglala National Grassland in northwest Nebraska, is managed as part of the Pine Ridge Ranger District. The Buffalo Gap National Grassland is managed as two ranger districts, with the Fall River RD office in Hot Springs, SD and the Wall RD office co-located with the National Grasslands Visitor Center in Wall, SD. The Fort Pierre National Grassland office is currently located in Pierre, SD but will be moving across the Missouri River to Fort Pierre in the near future. The final unit is the Charles E. Bessey Nursery, the country's first federal tree nursery. The nursery headquarters is co-located with the Bessey RD headquarters in central Nebraska.

On July 31, 2002 Rocky Mountain Regional Forester, Rick Cables, signed the Record of Decision to implement a revised management plan for the Nebraska National Forest Units. USDA Deputy Under Secretary David Tenny rendered the final administrative appeal decision upholding the Record of Decision, on May 5, 2004. This monitoring report is the first report to be completed under the new plan. For that reason, and the fact that many of the monitoring items have a reporting frequency of five to ten years, evaluation of the monitored items will be somewhat limited. The current emphasis is placed upon collecting baseline and supporting data for future use in helping to determine trend information toward or away from achieving desired conditions. Baseline timeframe for key monitoring items is assumed to be the date the Record of Decision was signed, and will be used in the FY 2004 monitoring Report.

Monitoring Purpose

Effective Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) monitoring and evaluation fosters improved management and more informed planning decisions. It helps identify the need to adjust desired conditions, goals, objectives, standards and guidelines as conditions change. Monitoring and evaluation helps forests, grasslands, the Agency and the public determine how a LRMP is being implemented, whether plan implementation is achieving desired outcomes, and whether assumptions made in the planning process are valid.

Monitoring and evaluation are learning tools that form the backbone of adaptive management. With these tools, information is collected and compiled to serve as reference points for the future; new scientific understanding and technology, changes in law and policy and resource conditions, growing concerns, trends and changing societal values are incorporated into forest/grassland planning; and the scientific validity and appropriateness of assumptions used in the development of forest and grassland

plans is evaluated. In short, they breathe life into a static document—the LRMP—to make it dynamic, relevant and useful.

Several kinds of activities can be referred to as “monitoring.” **Programmatic monitoring** tracks and evaluates trends of ecological, social, or economic outcomes. **Project implementation monitoring** monitors compliance with LRMP standards and guidelines. **Effectiveness monitoring** evaluates how effective our management actions are at achieving desired outcomes. **Validation monitoring** verifies assumptions and models used in LRMP implementation. Monitoring may also address issues for large geographic areas of which a forest or grassland is a part. These types of monitoring are addressed in LRMPs.

Monitoring and evaluation are conducted at several scales and for many purposes, each of which has different objectives and requirements. Monitoring requirements and tasks are developed to be responsive to the objectives and scale of the plan, program, or project to be monitored.

Monitoring and evaluation are separate, sequential activities required by NFMA regulations to determine how well objectives have been met and how closely management standards and guidelines have been applied. Monitoring generally includes the collection of data and information, either by observation or measurement. Evaluation is the analysis of the data and information collected during the monitoring phase. The evaluation results are used to answer the monitoring questions, determine the need to revise or amend management plans or how they are implemented, and form a basis for adaptively managing the national grasslands and forests.

Monitoring provides the Forest Supervisor with the information necessary to determine whether the Revised Management Plan is sufficient to guide management of the National Grasslands and Forests for the subsequent year or whether modification of the plan is needed.

Reasons for Monitoring (Monitoring Drivers)

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires national forests and grasslands to do specific monitoring tasks. The level and intensity of any additional monitoring is dependent on available staffing, funding and forest or grassland priorities.

Following is a list of reasons (monitoring drivers) why certain items are included in a LRMP:

- Legal and regulatory requirements
- Forest Service Manual direction
- Tracking forest/grassland desired conditions, goals and objectives
- Validation of models/assumptions
- Tracking agency expectations
- Tracking public expectations/issues
- Tracking LRMP standards and guidelines
- Contributions to broad-scale monitoring

- Court rulings

Monitoring Priorities

After monitoring questions are developed, a screening process sorts the more significant questions from the less significant to ensure efficient use of limited resources—time, money and personnel. The priority of a question may affect the intensity or extent of associated monitoring activities. Following is a list of questions used in the screening process with a brief explanation or example:

1. **Is there a high degree of uncertainty associated with management assumptions?** *Examples:* (1) a new way of doing something where there is limited experience with the new technique; (2) actions taken in response to an unprecedented situation; (3) a lack of data for a particular resource response to a management action.
2. **Is there a high degree of disparity between existing and desired conditions?** *Examples:* (1) a particular habitat component is at a much lower level than desired; (2) the amount of use of a particular resource or use at a particular location is much higher than desired.
3. **Are proposed management activities likely to affect resources of concern?** There may be other forces affecting a resource much more significantly than anything the Forest Service does. Also, there may be portions of the landscape where no management activities are planned. An efficient monitoring strategy will focus on those circumstances where management activities are expected to have a discernable outcome.
4. **What are the consequences of not knowing resource conditions?** *Examples:* (1) if a species is at risk, consequences could be high, whether or not management activities are likely to affect it; (2) if a relationship with cooperators or local government is at risk due to a management activity, consequences could be high (in this case, a *human* resource).
5. **Will monitoring respond to a key issue?** Key issues identified through scoping may warrant monitoring *even if* they are (1) well understood, (2) the existing condition is good and (3) management activities will have little impact. Monitoring may be necessary for educational and/or accountability purposes.
6. **In addition to the above, can the question be cost effectively answered?** If the cost of answering the question is especially high in regard to benefits, or if an adequate monitoring method cannot be developed, the resource in question may be more appropriately studied by another entity, such as Forest Service research or private educational institutions.

Evaluation Process

The Forest/Grassland ID Team evaluates the data and information collected through monitoring. Successful adaptive management depends on collectively evaluating the effectiveness of management activities in moving the Forest or Grassland toward desired conditions. The “desired condition” (or other driver) that prompted the development of a monitoring question is typically associated with one or more monitoring items. Whereas the desired condition may be conceptual or visionary in nature, the monitoring items are generally a measurable aspect of the desired condition.

Evaluation is the process of transforming data into information—a value-added process. It is a process of synthesis that brings together value, judgment and reason with monitoring information to answer the question, “So what?” and perhaps, “Why?”

As noted earlier, the fact that FY 2003 is the first full year of implementation following the final administrative appeal resolution means that the forest will collect baseline monitoring data, but for many of the items with a five to ten year reporting frequency there is currently too little data to attempt any significant evaluation. There are exceptions; such as effects on adjacent communities of National Forest System management, which is a monitoring item with an annual reporting frequency. Other items with annual reporting frequencies include several Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E) items.

The following Monitoring Strategy outlines in tabular form the type of monitoring (Effectiveness, Implementation, or Validation), the reasons for the particular monitoring (monitoring drivers), monitoring questions, reporting frequency, and monitoring data collected. Please refer to the LRMP, Chapter 4 (Monitoring and Evaluation) for a more complete description of the monitoring strategy and its components.

EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 1.a Objective 2, 3	**Riparian 1:** To what extent are perennial streams in proper functioning condition and riparian areas and wooded draws regenerating?	Pine RidgeRD Oglala NG	Five Years	No Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) monitoring was conducted for perennial streams on the Pine Ridge Geographic Area in 2003. However, a cooperative monitoring and evaluation project with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission was conducted in the spring of 2003 emphasizing regeneration and conditions of riparian, deciduous wooded draws, and grassland habitats. Levels of regeneration in 9 major riparian areas and 17 wooded draws were rated using Riparian Characteristics Evaluation Sheets, R2-2200-RCW for woody draws and R2-2200-RCS for streams. The evaluation protocols used are described in the Rangeland Analysis Management and Training Guide (USDA 1996b). Photo points were taken for future reference.	Initial results indicate that considerable improvement in riparian and wooded draw regeneration has occurred along many of the Pine Ridge streams and drainages over the last 10 to 15 years as a result of adjusted livestock management. However, several stream/riparian reaches and wooded draws still display inadequate or questionable regeneration and need further monitoring. Evaluation of results relative to LRMP Objective 1a(2) is incomplete at this time.
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No monitoring	
		Fall River RD		No monitoring – very limited occurrence of perennial streams on the Fall River District	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Wall RD		No monitoring	
		Ft. Pierre NG		No monitoring –This area has no perennial streams.	
LRMP Goal 1.a Objective 1	**Soil 1:** To what extent have soils eroded or disturbed by Forest Service management or permitted activities been restored?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five Years	No specific monitoring data collected in 2003. However, under the Rangeland Allotment Management Planning EIS (RAMP EIS), aerial photo interpretation was completed on all 34 allotments (50,529 acres) to determine acres available for livestock grazing. Initial stocking rates derived from the 1990's range analysis data were adjusted to proper stocking levels. While reviewing historical and recent range analysis data on the Pine Ridge Geographic Area it is apparent that current management with proper stocking levels, season of use, and number of livestock has resulted in an improved overall rangeland health (vegetation health and soil stability). Range analysis data (Permanent Transect Cluster-Parker Three-Step, 200 Pace Transect) collected in 1960's and 1970's and range analysis data collected in the 1990's (NRCS range analysis) was evaluated.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD		No monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD		No monitoring completed in FY2003.	
		Ft. Pierre NG		No monitoring completed in FY03.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 1.a Objective 1	**Watershed 1:** To what extent has water quality condition on watersheds containing National Forest System lands been restored, maintained or improved?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	The State of Nebraska Water Resources Division continues to monitor water quality conditions and beneficial use attainment in the White River-Hat Creek (White-Hat) River Basin in preparation of the Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. The Pine Ridge Geographic Area is within this Basin area. Based upon the partial data set from 2003 monitoring, the water body meets the definition of “impaired” however; a final attainment decision will not be made by the State until the monitoring has been fully completed. Should the collection of remaining data indicate the water quality criteria are exceeded; the water body will be included on the 2004 Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. The State of Nebraska has stated that the implementation of the Rangeland Allotment Management Decision does provide a balance where utilization of the land is allowed but sideboards are established that protect the aquatic resource both in and along the management area as well as downstream in the White - Hat River B	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD		No monitoring completed. Baseline analysis will be completed on Southeast Geographic Area through Range Allotment Management Plan NEPA in 2004.	
		Wall RD		No monitoring completed in FY2003 by the Forest Service. The USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and South Dakota Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) continue their long-term study of the Upper Bad River Watershed Project.	
		Ft. Pierre NG		No monitoring completed.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
LRMPGoal 1.a Objective 1	**Watershed 2:** To what extent have waterbodies on National Forest System lands that have been degraded by Forest Service permitted or management actions been restored?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five Years	No monitoring completed.	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD		No monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD		No monitoring completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG		No monitoring completed.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 1.a Objective 4	**Watershed 3:** To what extent have instream flows been assured to provide adequate water for fisheries and other riverine flora and fauna in streams and rivers with high resource values?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No monitoring completed on instream flows.	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD		No monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD		No monitoring completed in FY2003.	
		Ft. Pierre NG		No monitoring was completed on instream flows since this geographic area has no perennial streams.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 1.a Objective 5	**Watershed 4:** To what extent have surface water, sub-surface flows, and aquifers been protected from contamination from abandoned wells.	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	There are three known abandoned water wells located on the Pine Ridge Geographic Area and one known abandoned water well on the Oglala Geographic Area that have been identified but not decommissioned due to lack of funds.	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD		No monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD		There are no known abandoned water wells located on the WRD.	
		Ft. Pierre NG		No monitoring completed, but there are no known abandoned wells.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
Legal: 36 CFR 219.19(a)(6); 36 CFR 219.20; 36 CFR 219.27(5 and 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 2 & 6	**MIS 1:** What is the potential habitat capability for each management indicator species?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Ten years	Plains sharp-tailed grouse and black-tailed prairie dog = completed several years ago Pygmy nuthatch = analysis underway	Results and documentation maintained in official project files in Supervisor's Office and District Ranger Office in Chadron, NE
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		Plains sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken = completed several years ago VOR's and lek surveys were completed at McKelvie. Surveys are ongoing until whole area is completed	Results and documentation maintained in official project files in Supervisor's Office
		Fall River RD		Plains sharp-tailed grouse and black-tailed prairie dog = completed several years ago Greater Sage Grouse = analysis underway	Results and documentation maintained in official project files in Supervisor's Office

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Wall RD		Plains sharp-tailed grouse and black-tailed prairie dog = completed several years ago	Results and documentation maintained in official project files in Supervisor's Office
		Ft. Pierre NG		Plains sharp-tailed grouse, greater prairie chicken and black-tailed prairie dog = completed several years ago Sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chickens are both MIS on FPNG, and early spring nesting cover is a key habitat element for them. Grassland rested from grazing for two years is thought to produce the best potential habitat for these two species of prairie grouse. Visual obstruction readings were made on seven pastures that had been rested two years. After FY03, the mean VOR reading was about 4.5 inches, about 2 inches lower than the long term mean, which is a reflective of recent dry conditions. The combined data will be evaluated at the end of ten years.	Results and documentation maintained in official project files in Supervisor's Office

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
Legal: 36 CFR 219.19(a)(6); 36 CFR 219.20; 36 CFR 219.27(5 and 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 2 & 6	**MIS 2:** What is the current habitat suitability for each management indicator species?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse (Pine Ridge) = no monitoring (scheduled for FY04)	
				Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse (ONG) = no monitoring	Past habitat suitability evaluations for this area are documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS (Table 3-129)
				Pygmy Nuthatch (Pine Ridge) = Common stand exams were completed this year on approximately 15,000 acres. This will provide stand information for assessing habitat suitability.	Evaluation not completed
				Black-tailed Prairie Dog (ONG) = no monitoring (scheduled for FY04)	Past habitat suitability evaluations for this area are documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS (Table 3-132) and in the official project files at the District Office, Chadron, NE
				Visual Obstruction Readings are scheduled for 2004 for the Oglala and Pine Ridge Geographic Areas to support MIS sharp-tailed grouse monitoring.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse (Bessey) = no monitoring Greater Prairie Chicken (Bessey) = no monitoring Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse (SRM) = no monitoring Greater Prairie Chicken (SRM) = monitoring (grassland structure) was completed on approximately 29,000 acres In FY03, SO personnel used standard protocols to collect pre-treatment baseline data from a ¼ acre plot in a unit scheduled for a broadcast burn in 2004 (West SS). Six transects were also established to collect pre-	Past habitat suitability evaluations for this area are documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS & Errata (Table 3-129). Past habitat suitability evaluations for this area are documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS (Table 3-130). Past habitat suitability evaluations for this area are documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS & Errata (Table 3-129). Results of the habitat suitability evaluation are documented in an official file report in the Supervisor's Office, Chadron, NE. LRMP direction calls for 40 to 60% of this specie's habitat in this geographic area to be in high structure and suitability. Monitoring in 2002 and 2003 suggests that between 5 to 15% is in high structure and suitability. These results are similar to past monitoring results documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS (Table 3-130).

				treatment data for litter accumulation rates in the same unit. Broadcast burns are recommended in the Forest Plan for maintenance of optimum breeding and foraging habitats for Sharp-tailed Grouse and Greater Prairie Chicken. Data collected includes species composition, frequency, cover, height, density, and litter accumulation. Seven photopoints were also established in this unit to track the encroachment of Cedar into the grasslands. Data indicated that Cedar encroachment into the grasslands was likely to have adverse effects on otherwise suitable habitat.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Fall River RD		Plain's Sharp-tailed Grouse = monitoring (grassland structure) was completed across the Southeast and Northeast Geographic Areas.	A habitat suitability evaluation using the 2003 data has not been completed and documented. Past monitoring evaluations are documented in the official project files at the District Office in Hot Springs, SD, for the SE (Pioneer) geographic area and in the Northern Great Plains EIS & Errata (Table 3-129).
				Black-tailed Prairie Dog = size and distribution of 51 active colonies (3,700 acres) monitored	Active colony acreage continues to increase.
				Greater Sage Grouse – Study currently underway to obtain baseline information.	Evaluation not completed (scheduled for 2004 and 2005)
				In FY2003, SO personnel, working with district personnel, re-read eighteen of twenty long-term monitoring plots that were established in the Cheyenne River drainage in 2002. One year post-burn data was collected from five of these plots. Broadcast burns are recommended in the Forest Plan for maintenance of optimum breeding and foraging habitats for Sharp-tailed Grouse.	

				Data includes photopoints, species composition, frequency, cover, height, density, and litter accumulation.	
		Wall RD		Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse = monitoring (grassland structure) completed across the entire district Black-tailed Prairie Dog = monitoring of the size and distribution of colonies completed on portions of the district	A habitat suitability evaluation using the 2003 data has not been completed and documented. Past monitoring evaluations are documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS (Table 3-129). Acreage of active colonies continues to increase
		Ft. Pierre NG		Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse = monitoring (grassland structure) was completed across the entire geographic area Greater Prairie Chicken = monitoring (grassland structure) was completed across the entire geographic area Black-tailed Prairie Dog = approximately half of the colonies were monitored for size and distribution	A habitat suitability evaluation using the 2003 data has not been completed and documented. Past monitoring evaluations are documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS (Table 3-129). A habitat suitability evaluation using the 2003 data has not been completed and documented. Past monitoring evaluations are documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS (Table 3-130). The acreage of active colonies continues to increase

				In FY2003, SO personnel, working with district personnel, eastablished and/or re-read five plots for establishing and monitoring seral stage, general species composition, and litter accumulation pre burn data for broadcast burns scheduled to enhance habitat for Sharp-tailed Grouse and Greater Prairie Chicken. Visual obstruction readings were made after the growing and grazing seasons on a random ten percent of the quarter-sections on FPNG. The average VOR was 3 inches, or about 30% of habitat potential for prairie grouse. The data will be evaluated at the end of five years to determine habitat suitability for the entire grassland. In FY2003, SO personnel, working with district personnel, established and/or re-read five plots for establishing and monitoring seral stage, general species composition, and litter accumulation pre burn data for broadcast burns scheduled to enhance habitat for Sharp-tailed Grouse and Greater Prairie Chicken.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
Legal: 36 CFR 219.19(a)(6); 36 CFR 219.20; 36 CFR 219.27(5 and 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 2 & 6	**MIS 3:** What are the long-term population trends for each management indicator species and the relationships between long-term population trends and the effects of management activities on habitats on NFS lands?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse (Pine Ridge) = monitoring of display grounds was attempted but was ineffective due to unfavorable weather conditions late in the breeding season. Continued monitoring is scheduled to establish baseline population information for monitoring population trend. Pygmy Nuthatch = monitoring underway; continued monitoring is scheduled to establish baseline population information for monitoring population trend. Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse (ONG) = In FY2003 SO personnel established six permanent long-term monitoring plots of .25 acres each in forested areas. Three are in open Ponderosa Savannah, and three in ponderosa forest with >50% crown closure, all within the Chadron Creek drainage. Baseline data was collected from these plots to detect long-term ecosystem trends in response to scheduled management activities on the Pine	The monitoring dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends in response to management activities. The monitoring dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends in response to management activities.

				Ridge Ranger District.	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse (Bessey) = no display ground monitoring; wing harvest monitoring completed Greater Prairie Chicken (Bessey) = no display ground monitoring; wing harvest monitoring completed Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse (SRM) = monitoring to identify display ground locations and baseline information was completed over much of the geographic area; wing harvest monitoring completed Greater Prairie Chicken (SRM) = monitoring to identify display ground locations and baseline information was completed over much of the geographic area; wing harvest monitoring completed Pre-treatment baseline data was collected from one ¼ acre grassland plot in a unit scheduled for a broadcast burn in 2004 (West SS). Broadcast burns are recommended for maintenance of optimum breeding and foraging habitats for Sharp-tailed Grouse and	Monitoring data are on file in Supervisor's Office in Chadron, NE, but an evaluation to assess long-term population trend has not been completed and documented. Monitoring data are on file in Supervisor's Office in Chadron, NE, but an evaluation to assess long-term population trend has not been completed and documented. Monitoring data and summary report are on file in Supervisor's Office in Chadron, NE, but an evaluation to assess long-term population trend has not been completed and documented. Monitoring data and report are on file in Supervisor's Office in Chadron, NE, but an evaluation to assess long-term population trend has not been completed and documented.

				Greater Prairie Chicken. Data includes species composition, frequency, cover, height, density, and litter accumulation. Three additional plots were established to collect pre-treatment data for litter accumulation rates in the same unit.	
		Fall River RD		Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse = monitoring occurred across the district; 23 display grounds were located and monitored Black-tailed Prairie Dog = size and distribution of 51 active colonies (3,700 acres) monitored Sage Grouse – monitoring of the display ground was completed In FY2003, SO personnel, working with district personnel, re-read eighteen of twenty long-term monitoring plots that were established in the Cheyenne River drainage in 2002. One year post-burn data was collected from five of these plots. Broadcast burns are recommended in the Forest Plan for maintenance of optimum breeding and	Evaluation has not been completed or documented Acreage of active colonies continues to increase No grouse were observed on the display ground for the first time since monitoring was initiated; could reflect effects of west nile virus

				foraging habitats for Sharp-tailed Grouse. Data includes photopoints, species composition, frequency, cover, height, density, and litter accumulation.	
		Wall RD		Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse = monitoring to determine location of display grounds was completed across approximately 20,000 acres Black-tailed Prairie Dog = monitoring of the size and distribution of colonies was completed on a portion of the district	Evaluation report not completed or documented Acreage of active colonies continues to increase
		Ft. Pierre NG		Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse = monitoring of display grounds was completed in a 18,250 acre monitoring unit; wing harvest monitoring was also completed Greater Prairie Chicken = monitoring of display grounds was completed in a 18,250 acre monitoring unit; wing harvest monitoring was also completed Black-tailed Prairie Dog = Approximately half of the prairie dog colonies were monitored for size and distribution	Monitoring data and summary reports are maintained in official project files at District Office, Fort Pierre, SD. An evaluation to assess long-term population trend has not been completed and documented. Monitoring data and summary reports are maintained in official project files at District Office, Fort Pierre, SD. An evaluation to assess long-term population trend has not been completed and documented. Acreage of active colonies continues to increase

				In FY2003, SO personnel, working with district personnel, collected data from five plots to acquire baseline data for establishing and monitoring seral stage, general species composition, and litter accumulation. These data will provide baseline data for broadcast burns planned to enhance habitat for Sharp-tailed Grouse and Greater Prairie Chicken. Additional data has been or is scheduled to be collected to establish additional baseline data in a variety of ecosystem/habitat types.	
USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 7	**T&E 1:** To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of black-footed ferrets?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	N/A	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		N/A	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Fall River RD		N/A	Black-footed ferrets have not been reintroduced in the District's 3.63 Management Area in Smithwick. Prairie dog acreage continues to expand in this MA.
		Wall RD		Systematic monitoring in Conata Basin was completed	Currently, BFF populations have been established on three prairie dog complexes scattered across Conata Basin with a total wild, free-roaming population of over 230 ferrets. Over 99 percent of the current BFF population is wild born BFFs. Age structure of the ferret population is: over 90 adults and nearly 140 kits. The Conata Basin ferret population has contributed greatly to the species recovery and is considered the only viable population in the wild.
		Ft. Pierre NG		N/A	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4, 7, & 9	**T&E 2:** To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of blowout penstemon?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	N/A	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		Incidental Sightings	No observations this year
		Fall River RD		N/A	
		Wall RD		N/A	
		Ft. Pierre NG		N/A	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 7	**T&E 3:** To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of bald eagle?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	Incidental Sightings	No observations this year
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		Incidental Sightings	No observations
		Fall River RD		Systematic monitoring completed along Cheyenne River	No known nesting attempts. 9 mature and 2 immature bald eagles were observed

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Wall RD		Incidental Sightings	No known nesting occurs on the Wall Ranger District. Bald eagles have been sited occasionally roosting along the Cheyenne River and in the Conata Basin area on the Wall Ranger District in 2003. In addition, there have been occasional sitings of bald eagles hunting on the prairie dog towns in the Conata Basin area in 2003.
		Ft. Pierre NG		Incidental Sightings	No known nests or roosts used repeatedly are known to occur on FPNG. Incidental eagle sightings are recorded as policy on FPNG, but none were made in FY03.
USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 7	**T&E 4:** To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of the American burying beetle?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	N/A	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		Systematic monitoring completed in selected sites	Seven beetles were trapped and released at Bessey during June and July.
		Fall River RD		N/A	
		Wall RD		N/A	
		Ft. Pierre NG		N/A	The species is not known to occur on FPNG. A fairly intensive survey was conducted in 1993, and the results were negative.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4 and 7	**T&E 5:** To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of whooping crane?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	Incidental Sightings	No observations this year

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		Incidental Sightings	No observations this year
		Fall River RD		Incidental Sightings	No observations this year
		Wall RD		Incidental Sightings	No observations this year
		Ft. Pierre NG		Incidental Sightings	No observations of whooping cranes were reported on FPNG in FY03. The last recorded sighting was in 1983.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 7	**T&E 6:** To What Extent are NFS Lands and Their Management Contributing to the Recovery and Viability of Mountain Plover?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	Incidental Sightings	No observations

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		N/A	
		Fall River RD		Incidental Sightings	No observations
		Wall RD		Incidental Sightings	No observations
		Ft. Pierre NG		N/A	
USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, & 9	**T&E 7**: Does Ute ladies' tresses or potential habitat for the species occur on the NFS lands within the planning area?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	Incidental Sightings	No observations
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		N/A	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Fall River RD		Incidental Sightings	No observations
		Wall RD		N/A	
		Ft. Pierre NG		N/A	
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5 & 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objective 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	**Viability 1:** To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are generally found in grassland and sagebrush habitats?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	BBS was conducted on PRRD by Forest Service wildlife biologist in 2003 No systematic monitoring for sensitive plant species	Data was insufficient to draw monitoring conclusions but will be used to help establish a baseline for future monitoring results. Dataset does provide some distribution information of sensitive grassland/shrubland bird species.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		Monitoring completed for greater prairie chicken habitat (see MIS monitoring section above) In FY2003, SO personnel collected data from long-term monitoring plots of .25 acre in the West SS allotment in the Dismal River Drainage. Baseline data was collected to be used for evaluating the effectiveness of planned treatments in improving viability of sensitive plant and animal species. These data include species composition, frequency, density, litter accumulation, and height.	Habitat monitoring and evaluation for greater prairie chicken (also management indicator species) provide information useful for assessing habitat suitability for a variety of sensitive grassland bird species (see MIS monitoring section above).
		Fall River RD		Monitoring of sagebrush habitats, sage grouse and Brewer's sparrow occurrence completed Monitoring completed for plains sharp-tailed grouse habitat (see MIS monitoring section above)	Multi-year study initiated in 2003 to assess sagebrush ecosystem including bird surveys, display ground surveys and vegetation surveys. Data summarization and evaluation expected in fall of 2004 or 2005. Habitat monitoring and evaluation for plains sharp-tailed grouse (management indicator species) provide information useful for assessing habitat suitability for a variety of sensitive grassland bird species (see MIS monitoring section above).

				In FY2003, SO personnel, working with district personnel, re-read eighteen of twenty long-term monitoring plots that were established in the Cheyenne River drainage in 2002. Baseline data has been collected from these plots located in three treatment units on the Hardpan Allotment, and in the Gamet Allotment. These data include species composition, frequency, density, litter accumulation, and height.	
		Ft. Pierre NG		FPNG has no sensitive plant species. Monitoring completed for plains sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken habitat (see MIS monitoring section above) In FY2003, SO personnel, working with district personnel, collected data from five plots for establishing and monitoring seral stage data and to establish baseline data for evaluating the effectiveness of planned treatments in contributing to the viability of sensitive species.	Habitat monitoring and evaluation for plains sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken (management indicator species) provide information useful for assessing habitat suitability for a variety of sensitive grassland bird species (see MIS monitoring section above).

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5 & 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objective 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	**Viability 2:** To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are generally found in riparian and wetland habitats?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Systematic monitoring of riparian and wetland habitats was completed across most of the Pine Ridge	As part of the RAMP EIS a cooperative monitoring and evaluation project with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission was conducted in the spring of 2003 emphasizing regeneration and conditions of riparian, deciduous wooded draws, and grassland habitats. During these "walk-through" field evaluations, informal inspections for federally threatened, endangered, or proposed (TEP) species and Forest Service sensitive species and their habitats were conducted. The 9 major stream riparian areas and 17 woody draws were rated using Riparian Characteristics Evaluation Sheets, R2-2200-RCW for woody draws and R2-2200-RCS for streams. The evaluation protocols used are described in the Rangeland Analysis Management and Training Guide (USDA 1996b). Plant species descriptions, locations, and habitat were mainly referenced from the following sources: NatureServe Website, USDA Plants Database, Flora of the Great Plains (Barkley 1986), Atlas of the Flora of the Northern Great Plains (Barkley 1977), Aquatic and Wetland Vascular Plants of the Northern Great Plains (Larson 1993), Nebraska Natural Heritage Data (NNHP 2000), Appendix H of the Northern Great Plains Environmental Impact Statement (NGP EIS), and Inventory

					of Rare Plant Species in the Pine Ridge Area (Fritz et al 1992). Other sources for plant species information specific to the Pine Ridge Geographic Area include personal communications with Dr. Ron Weedon at Chadron State College as well as ecological evaluations completed by the Nature Conservancy for Cunningham Creek and Soldier Creek (Hildebrand 1996a, Hildebrand 1996b). Initial results indicate that a considerable improvement in riparian and wooded draw conditions has occurred along many of the Pine Ridge streams and drainages over the last 10 to 15 years as a result of adjusted livestock management. However, several stream/riparian reaches and wooded draws still display inadequate or questionable regeneration and need further monitoring. Summary report is documented in the official project file at the District Office, Chadron, NE.
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		Incidental Sightings	No observations
		Fall River RD		Systematic monitoring was completed along Cheyenne River. No monitoring completed on wetlands.	Yellow-billed cuckoo observed

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Wall RD		Incidental Sightings	No observations
		Ft. Pierre NG		Incidental Sightings	No observations
USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5 & 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	**Viability 3:** To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are found in aquatic habitats?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Same as Viability 2.	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		Native fish surveys were completed on Steer Creek in September 2003 at McKelvie.	No sensitive fish species observed
		Fall River RD		Herpetological monitoring completed in 20 small impoundments	Northern leopard frog observed; monitoring and evaluation report in official project files at District Office, Hot Springs, SD

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Wall RD		No monitoring	
		Ft. Pierre NG		Same as Viability 2 above	
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5 & 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objective 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	**Viability 4:** To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are generally found in forested habitats?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No monitoring on plant species viability. BBS routes were conducted on PRGA by qualified biologists in 2003. A winter distribution inventory for pygmy nuthatch in Bordeaux Creek Hazardous fuels management area was completed. In FY2003 SO personnel established six permanent long-term monitoring plots of .25 acres each. Baseline data has been acquired from these plots located in two treatment units within the Chadron Creek drainage. These data provide baseline levels to evaluate long-term ecosystem trends in response to management activities on the Pine Ridge Ranger District.	Data was insufficient to draw monitoring conclusions but will be used to help establish a baseline for future monitoring results. Dataset does provide some distribution information of bird species. Winter roost areas were located and recorded by district biologist.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		In FY2003, SO personnel established three long-term monitoring plots of .25 acres each. Baseline data has been acquired from these plots that are located in two treatment units within the Dismal River drainage. One located in a grassland unit and two in timber. Additional data is scheduled to be collected to establish additional baseline data in a variety of ecosystem/habitat types.	
		Fall River RD		See Viability 2 above	
		Wall RD		Incidental Sightings	No observations
		Ft. Pierre NG		N/A	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objective 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	**Viability 5:** To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive animal species that are heavily dependent on prairie dog colony habitat?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No monitoring of species viability or acres of prairie dog colonies in 2003. General field observations indicate prairie dog colony expansion	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		Incidental Sightings	No observations
		Fall River RD		Baseline surveys completed for prairie dogs and burrowing owls in Northeast Geographic Area.	Monitoring data in official project files in District Office, Hot Springs, SD
		Wall RD		Monitoring completed across portions of the district	Prairie dog populations and acreages are on an upward trend. Current status of prairie dog acres in Conata Basin is 12,800 acres compared to 9,700 acres in 1999. The prairie dog acreages on the WRD, especially in

					Conata Basin, have contributed to the viability of burrowing owls and swift foxes.
		Ft. Pierre NG		About half of FPNG prairie dog colonies were measured with a geophraphic positioning system	This showed that the collective colony size had approximately doubled since the last survey four years before. Animal species associated with these colonies were not surveyed.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5 & 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objective 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	**Viability 6:** To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are generally found in special habitats like caves, cliffs, buttes, blowouts, and barren habitats?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No monitoring on sensitive plant species Limited inventory for cliff nesting raptors in 2003 was completed	Insufficient to draw monitoring conclusions but will be used to help establish a baseline for future monitoring.
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		Incidental Sightings	No observations

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Fall River RD		Incidental Sightings	No observations
		Wall RD		Incidental Sightings	No observations
		Ft. Pierre NG		N/A	
36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b	**Viability 7:** To what extent have cooperative agreements and the landownership adjustment program been effective in reducing private land conflicts involving prairie dogs and enhancing long-term opportunities for development of prairie dog colony complexes in the priority National Grassland areas.	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No land exchange activities involving prairie dog management objectives	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		N/A	
		Fall River RD		No land exchange activities involving prairie dog management objectives	
		Wall RD		No land exchange activities involving prairie dog management objectives	
		Ft. Pierre NG		A land exchange involving 240 acres of private land to reduce conflicts with prairie dogs was progressing in FY03 but was not finalized.	
36 CFR 219.20; LRMP Management Areas 3.58 & 3.51	**Wildlife 1:** Is habitat effectiveness on designated big game range being maintained or enhanced?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Cooperative meetings and discussions with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission occurred in 2003 regarding general management of Management Area 3.51 and bighorn sheep management.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		N/A	
		Fall River RD		N/A	
		Wall RD		N/A	
		Ft. Pierre NG		N/A	
Legal 36 CFR 219.7(f); LRMP Goal 1.c Objective 5, LRMP Goal 4.b Public & Organizational Relations Objective 2	**Community Relations 1:** To what extent are noxious weeds, invasive species, and animal damage spreading from National Forest System lands to other ownerships or from lands managed by other government agencies to National Forest System lands?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Noxious weeds continue to encroach to and from private and state owned land from and to NFS lands primarily along wildlife/livestock travel routes, streams, and by wind blown seed. Total actual acres of noxious weed spread from and to other ownerships have not been determined. Prairie dog colony expansion on the Oglala National Grassland was not monitored in 2003; therefore expansion acres are not available. However, visual observations indicate that prairie dog colony expansion from NFS lands to adjacent private lands is	

				occurring.	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No monitoring completed in FY2003.	
		Fall River RD		No monitoring completed in FY2003.	
		Wall RD		Noxious weeds, especially Canada thistle, have been spreading from the Badlands National Park to the Nationall Grasslands and adjoining private lands. Both the BNP and FS have initiated monitoring on the spread of Canada thistle in 2003. Prairie dog acreages have increased in 2003 due to drought. Wall Ranger District has increased its monitoring of prairie dog colonies adjacent to private lands. In addition, The WRD has increased its live-trapping efforts to reduce conflicts with private land.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Ft. Pierre NG		No survey of noxious weed movement onto or off of FPNG was done in FY03. However, some weed movement is occurring both to and from private land. Seven of about 36 FPNG prairie dog towns are spreading to private land and one is spreading onto state land	
Legal 36 CFR 219.12(k)5(iv); LRMP Goal 1c Objective 5	**Damage Control 1:** To what extent are destructive insect and disease outbreaks prevented following management activities? (See also Community 1)	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No destructive insect or disease outbreak occurred on the Pine Ridge Ranger District.	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No destructive insect or disease outbreak occurred on the Bessey RD/SR McKelvie NF.	
		Fall River RD		No destructive insect or disease outbreak occurred on the Fall River RD.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Wall RD		No destructive insect or disease outbreak occurred on the Wall Ranger District in 2003.	
		Ft. Pierre NG		No destructive insect or disease outbreak occurred on the Ft. Pierre National Grassland 2003.	
LRMP Goal 1.c Objective 5, LRMP Goal 4.b Public & Organizational Relations Objectives 2	**Damage Control 2:** To what extent are noxious weeds, invasive species, and animal damage expanding or being reduced?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Noxious weed mapping and treatment in 2003 resulted in 745 acres of Canada thistle, 172 acres of leafy spurge, 100 acres of bind weed and 1.5 acres of Scotch thistle on the Pine Ridge Geographic Area (PRGA) and 673 acres of Canada thistle, 8.4 acres of bindweed and .01 acre of leafy spurge on the Oglala Geographic Area. Overall the leafy spurge population in West Ash Drainage and Canada thistle populations on Big Bordeaux Drainage of the PRGA has been reduced dramatically both in area occupied and population density over the last 20 years. Historical and current data was evaluated (photos, maps and pesticide use records).	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		Leafy spurge and Canada thistle were sprayed on both Bessey and McKelvie for a total of 40 acres	
		Fall River RD		No population surveys completed in 2003. Data was collected from 18 plots in the Cheyenne River drainage. Increases were noted in Japanese Brome, on most plots. Prairie Dogs had moved into two plots on the Hardpan allotment which had been established in 2002 within an inactive prairie dog town, within ~200 feet of active mounds.	
		Wall RD		Noxious weed mapping and treatment in 2003 resulted in 2200 acres of Canada thistle, 700 acres of hoary cress, and 100 acres of Russian Knapweed on the Wall Ranger. The recent establishment of the Badlands Weed Management Group has helped immensely in the development of a coordinated effort to reduce noxious weeds in Eastern Pennington County and Jackson County. This group consist of federal, state and local agencies working with private landowners.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Ft. Pierre NG		Noxious weed treatment in 2003 was about 80 acres, mostly Canada thistle. : Fire Effects/Fuel monitoring SO personnel worked with district personnel to collect data from three plots and establish photopoints in an allotment that severely infested with Sickleweed (*Falcaria vulgaris*). Cover data was collected from three plots to provide baseline data for planned treatments.	
LRMP Goal 1.c Objective 1; LRMP Goal 2.c Wildlife, Fish, & Plant Use Objective 2	**Vegetation 1:** To what extent are rangeland vegetation structure objectives being met?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	See MIS section above for sharp-tailed grouse	Annual grazing levels (stocking rate, season of use) were adjusted for 90% of the allotments on the Pine Ridge and Oglala Geographic Areas (PRGA) due to drought. The Pine Ridge Geographic Area Range Allotment Management Plan (RAMP) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) initiated in 2003 evaluated Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Rangeland Analysis data on 34 allotments to determine rangeland condition/species. For the PRGA (50,529 acres), the following is current vegetation structural condition: 20-25% low, 65-75% moderate, and 5-10% high (RAMP FEIS pg. 127). The Forest Plan objective for structural stage is 5-15% in low,

					65-85% in moderate, and 10-20% in high structural stage. To implement the Forest Plan approximately 5-10% of existing low structure rangeland will need to be managed for moderate or high structural stage
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		See MIS section above for sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken	
		Fall River RD		See MIS section above for sharp-tailed grouse Data collected on the Hardpan allotment in the Cheyenne River drainage shows a decrease in Western Wheatgrass and an overall increase in shortgrass species. The overall decrease in structure should contribute to the overall vegetation structure objectives.	One hundred-ninety-two Robel transects were completed in the southeast and northeast geographic areas. Stubble-height transects were completed in conjunction with cooperative sagebrush study with the State of SD in the west geographic area.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Wall RD		See MIS section above for sharp-tailed grouse	The Wall Ranger District has established a random stratified sampling of vegetation structure across the three geographic areas. This sampling protocol monitors VORs vegetation structure on nearly 30,000 acres annually. 2003 is the first year of data for the analysis of how WRD is meeting the desired levels of vegetation structure.
		Ft. Pierre NG		See MIS section above for sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken	Random VOR's were conducted in 10 percent of grassland quarter-sections, which showed that about three percent of cover was in high structure, 67 percent was in moderate, and 30 percent was in low. That's at the high end of LRMP objectives for low cover, above the objective for moderate, and way below the objective of at least 30 percent high cover. However, 2003 was a drier than normal year. These structural cover levels will be evaluated at the end of the five-year period.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 1.c Objective 1; LRMP Goal 2.c Wildlife, Fish, & Plant Use Objective 2	**Vegetation 2:** To what extent are rangeland vegetation composition objectives being met?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Annual grazing levels (stocking rate, season of use) were adjusted for 90% of the allotments on the Pine Ridge and Oglala Geographic Areas due to drought. The PRGA RAMP FEIS initiated in 2003 did evaluate NRCS Rangeland Analysis data on 34 allotments that determines rangeland condition/species. This data was cross-walked to be described as ecological seral stages. In summary for the PRGA (50,529 acres), the following is current condition: 1% in early seral, 25% in early intermediate, 56% in late intermediate and 14% in late seral stage (RAMP FEIS pg. 127). To implement the Forest Plan approximately 9% of rangeland will need to be managed to move toward early seral stage, 17% to move away from early intermediate, 8% to move away from late intermediate, and 4% to move toward late seral.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		In FY2003, SO personnel established a long-term monitoring plot of .25 acres. Baseline data has been acquired from the plot that is located within the Dismal River drainage. Data collected from the plot indicate vegetation composition objectives at that site are being met, although there are an excess accumulation of litter and decadent shrubs.	
		Fall River RD		Baseline analysis will be completed on the Southeast Geographic Area in 2004 NEPA covering Range Allotment Management Planning. In FY2003, SO personnel, working with district personnel, re-read 18 of 20 long-term monitoring plots that were established in the Cheyenne River drainage in 2002. Data from these plots indicate vegetation composition objectives are being met in the Gamet allotment (12 plots) and, to a lesser degree on the Hardpan allotment.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Wall RD		No monitoring completed in FY2003.	
		Ft. Pierre NG		Twelve permanent vegetation plots were read in FY03 to determine vegetation composition. They were 33% high, 17% high-intermediate, and 50% low-intermediate. This falls in the LRMP composition objectives for late seral, but is below for late intermediate and early seral. It is above objectives for low intermediate. However, this is a fairly small sample size, and the combined data may differ appreciably from this by the end of the five-year monitoring period. In FY2003, SO personnel, working with district personnel, located and/or re-read five plots for establishing and monitoring seral stage data and to establish pre-treatment data for scheduled prescribed burns. With the exception of Sickleweed present in some pastures, data collected indicate that composition objectives are being met.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 1.c Objective 1; LRMP Goal 2.c Wildlife, Fish, & Plant Use Objective 2	**Vegetation 3:** To what extent are desired vegetation conditions in forested areas being met?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Thinning treatments being implemented to reduce fuel loading on the Pine Ridge and Bessey Ranger Districts are generally moving forested stands toward desired conditions, but since treatments are still in progress, there has been insufficient data collection and analysis to determine the rate of progress. As treatments are completed, forest structural data will be collected and used in future monitoring results. In FY2003 SO personnel established six permanent long-term monitoring plots of .25 acres each. Baseline data has been acquired from these plots located in two treatment units within the Chadron Creek drainage. These data provide baseline levels to evaluate long-term ecosystem trends in response to management activities on the Pine Ridge Ranger District.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		In FY2003 SO personnel established six permanent long-term monitoring plots of .25 acres each. Baseline data has been acquired from these plots located in two treatment units within the Chadron Creek drainage. These data provide baseline levels to evaluate long-term ecosystem trends in response to management activities on the Pine Ridge Ranger District.	
		Fall River RD		No monitoring completed for FY 2003.	
		Wall RD		No monitoring completed in FY2003.	
		Ft. Pierre NG		N/A FPNG has no forested areas.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 1.c Objective 1; LRMP Goal 2.c Wildlife, Fish, & Plant Use Objective 2	**Vegetation 4:** To what extent are desired vegetation conditions in wetlands being met?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No monitoring of emergent and shoreline cover on natural and constructed wetlands was completed on ONG	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No monitoring of emergent and shoreline cover on natural and constructed wetlands was completed	
		Fall River RD		No monitoring of emergent and shoreline cover on natural and constructed wetlands was completed	
		Wall RD		No monitoring of emergent and shoreline cover on natural and constructed wetlands was completed	
		Ft. Pierre NG		No monitoring of emergent and shoreline cover on natural and constructed wetlands was completed	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 2.a Objective 1, 7	**Recreation 1:** To what extent are trails managed to meet regional standards and to minimize conflicts among users.	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	Approximately one half of the districts trail system is maintained to regional standards each year. The Pine Ridge trail, Roberts Loop, Trooper and Boots and Saddle trails are among those meeting regional standards. Trail users have not been surveyed for conflicts, however the amount of motorized use on some of the trails is increasing.	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No monitoring completed for FY 2003.	
		Fall River RD		N/A—There are no designated trails on the FRRD.	
		Wall RD		The Prairie Bike Trail on the Wall Ranger District had all missing/damaged trail signs replaced and the trail maintenance on all creek crossings in 2003. No conflicts reported in 2003.	
		Ft. Pierre NG		FPNG presently has no recreational hiking or horseback trails.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
LRMPGoal 2.a Objective 4 & 6	**Recreation 2:** Where does the demand for recreation opportunities warrant development of additional opportunities such as trails or campgrounds?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	The primary demand is for motorized trails as identified thru scoping for travel management.	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No monitoring completed for FY 2003.	
		Fall River RD		No monitoring completed in FY 2003.	
		Wall RD		No monitoring completed in FY2003.	
		Ft. Pierre NG		No monitoring completed in FY2003.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
Legal - National Historic Preservation Act; LRMP Goal 2.a Objectives 2, 3, & 4, LRMP Goal 2b Heritage Objectives 2 & 5, LRMP Goal 2c Geologic and Paleontologic Resources Objective 3 &Wildlife, Fish & Plant Use Objective 1, LRMP Goal 4a Objective 2	**Recreation 3:** To what extent are Grassland and Forest visitors informed of the recreation opportunities available to them; are they adequately guided to those recreation opportunities; and do they receive adequate interpretive information on National Register of Historic Places and other heritage sites, geologic, paleontologic, wildlife, plant, and recreation resources or opportunities?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	The Pine Ridge Ranger District office, Nebraska Forest Supervisors office, Nebraska travel brochures, the local chambers of commence, and Chadron and Ft. Robinson State Parks provide information to grassland and forest visitors. Hudson Meng Bison Bonebed and Toadstool geologic area provide good interpretive information.	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No monitoring completed for FY 2003.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Fall River RD		No monitoring completed in 2003	
		Wall RD		The Wall Ranger District has revised the operational plan for the National Grasslands Visitor Center. The days and hours of operation have been modified to improve the cost efficiency while maintaining quality customer service levels. The Visitor Center maintains a customer comment book for feedback on the quality of customer service. Feedback from the visitors indicates that a high quality of customer service remains, even with the adjustments in staffing and operational hours.	
		Ft. Pierre NG		FPNG is a popular hunting area for prairie grouse. It is mentioned in many hunting and bird dog magazines. SD Dept. of Tourism and SD Game, Fish and Parks also help to steer recreationists to the grassland. Many calls and letters are answered by the district office.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
36 CFR 219.21 (g) 36 CFR 295.2 &.5 LRMP Goal 2.a & 4.a	**Travel and Access 1:** What are the effects of vehicle use off roads?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Two years	District employees have noticed that off road vehicle use continues to create new trails causing erosion and resource damage. These areas are primarily located in Pine Ridge unit 19 and east of highway 385.	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No monitoring completed for FY 2003.	
		Fall River RD		Baseline established in Railroad Buttes in the 4.32 Management Area. 6400 acres affected with 60- miles of user created OHV trails.	
		Wall RD		No monitoring completed in FY2003.	
		Ft. Pierre NG		Two-track trails have been worn into the grass to many ponds that have fish populations.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
Legal - National Historic Preservation Act; LRMP Goal 2.b Heritage Objectives 2 & 5	**Heritage 1:** To what extent are National Register sites and districts being protected and preserved?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Hudson-Meng Bison Bonebed is being fully protected and preserved. The working portion of the site is within a building with an electronic security alarm system. There were no known breaches of the security system in 2003. When the site and building are open for visitation trained personnel conduct guide tours and monitor all activities. No heritage resources are jeopardized.	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		The forest archeologist monitored the historic Bessey Nursery and Ranger District complex NRHP (National Register of Historic Places) area and engaged in two section 106 (American Archeological Resources Protection Act) consultations with the SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office). No incidents of vandalism were observed or reported. An interpretive plan is under development and nursery tours are available to the public.	
		Fall River RD		N/A--No NRHP sites	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Wall RD		N/A--No NRHP sites	
		Ft. Pierre NG		N/A--No NRHP sites	
LRMP Goal 2.b Heritage Objective 3	**Heritage 2:** To what extent are traditional cultural properties being protected?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	31 sites were evaluated and found not to be eligible to NRHP. Nine sites were evaluated and found to be eligible. SHPO consultation took place on two sites.	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No sites were evaluated for NRHP eligibility in 2003.	
		Fall River RD		Seven new sites were evaluated and found to not be eligible to NRHP. SHPO consultation occurred on 5 sites.	
		Wall RD		Two new sites were found not to be eligible to the NRHP. SHPO consultation occurred on one site.	
		Ft. Pierre NG		Four new sites were found not to be eligible to the NRHP. SHPO consultation occurred on	

				three sites.	
Monitoring Driver	**Monitoring Question**	**NNF Unit**	**Reporting Frequency**	**Monitoring Completed in 2003**	**Evaluation**
LRMP Goal 2.b	**Special Interest Areas:** To what extent have the special features found Special Interest Areas been conserved or enhanced?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Bur Oak Enclosure SIA: This unique botanical community continues to be protected from livestock utilization by an exclosure fence. Hudsom Meng Bison Bonebed SIA: This archeological, interpretation and research site is preserved by a building enclosing the immediate site. Surrounding areas of the site are excluded from any livestock grazing. Mountain Mahogany Stand SIA: This botanical community is being included in forest management planning to conserve and/or enhance the area. Quaking Aspen Stand SIA: Through a recent cooperative agreement between the US Forest Service, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Sugarloaf Grazing Association, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, livestock management activities have enhanced this unique aspen stand on the Oglala National Grassland. The livestock water source in the aspen riparian area has been removed and relocated in an upland grassland setting. A future riparian fence will be constructed to provide additional enhancement to aspen stands adjacent to the SIA area. Additional aspen stands were/ are	

				being located and mapped by local interested parties. These data were/are being made available to NNF personnel as they are collected for inclusion in ongoing planning efforts. Toadstool Park SIA: During 1999-2003, Florida Museum of Natural History (FMNH) has been collecting fossils for educational purposes through a FMNH program called Pony Express. As of 2002, FMNH has collected and catalogued 818 fossil specimens collected from ONG. In 2003, Sr. MacFadden did not collect any fossils from Toadstool. The fossils collected from the ONG are part of research to compare and contrast the equivalent time units exposed in Florida. Dr. Richard Franz, FMNH, is now conducting research on the tortoises found in the White River Group on the ONG. In 2003, Dr. Franz collected 21 tortoises. He is trying to unravel the systematic problems within the paleontological nomenclature for Tertiary age tortoises. His work is complementing the tortoise research conducted by Dr. Mike Leite and Dr. Joe Corsini, Chadron State College, who also has a permit to collect fossils on the ONG. Dr. Mike Leite, Dr. Joe Corsini, and students have recorded 584 tortoise sites. Few specimens will be collected.	

				Dr. Al Sanders, The Charleston Museum, has been permitted to collect since 2002. He and his volunteers have collected 446 specimens as of 2003. In 2003 field season, 169 specimens were collected. Dr. Sanders's research focuses on the comparison of the equivalent geologic units exposed in South Carolina, by utilizing microfaunal species. Warbonnet/Yellowhand SIA: No activities have occurred at this SIA	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No monitoring completed for FY 2003.	
		Fall River RD		No monitoring completed for FY 2003.	
		Wall RD		N/A –No Special Interest Areas on WRD	
		Ft. Pierre NG		FPNG has no designated special interest areas. It does have about 10 special plant and animal habitats, amounting to 895 acres. Tree and shrub planting occurred on some of these habitats during FY03.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 2.b	**Research Natural Areas:** To what extent have the unique research features of Research Natural Areas been conserved or enhanced?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	N/A	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No monitoring completed for FY 2003.	
		Fall River RD		No monitoring completed for FY 2003.	
		Wall RD		No monitoring completed for FY 2003.	
		Ft. Pierre NG		FPNG has a 1,030-acre RNA—Mallard South. Canada thistle, a noxious weed, is annually controlled there. The area is not grazed between June 15 and September 30 to keep cattle from congregating in the hardwood draw during the hot part of the summer.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 2.b	**Wilderness:** To what extent are the Soldier Creek Wilderness special features and communities of special concern conserved or enhanced?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No monitoring activity has occurred.	
LRMP Goal 2.b	**Recommended for Wilderness:** To what extent are the Red Shirt and Indian Creek Recommended for Wilderness special features and communities of special concern conserved or enhanced?	Fall River RD	Five years	No monitoring completed for FY 2003.	
		Wall RD		In 2003, the Wall Ranger District worked closely with law enforcement to monitor travel management and the fossil resources in the Indian Creek Recommended for Wilderness area.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
Legal 36 CFR 219.7(f); LRMP Goal 2.c	**Community Relations 2:** What are the effects of National Forest System Management on adjacent communities?	Forest-wide	Annually	In FY 2003 the NNF had 65 new agreements, 5 new grants and 74 modifications/annual operating plans with cooperators, which were valued at approximately $1.35 Million. Of that total our partners contributed approximately $792,000 in cash and $79,000 in non-cash. The Forest Service contributed approximately $400,000 in cash and $72,000 in non-cash to the total. Included in this total are 5 Rural Community Assistance Grants totaling $55,000.	
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG		Between the Forest Supervisor's office and the Pine Ridge RD, there are 42 full-time and 18 seasonal employees with a combined payroll of over $2.2 million going into the Chadron/Crawford, NE area economy. $90,000 dollars was added to the local economy on the Pine Ridge Ranger District through the Steven's Grant monies provided to the state of Nebraska via the Forest Service for the purpose of completing hazardous fuels reduction activities on private lands adjacent to federal lands. Thinning was completed on 550 acres. In FY 2003, the Forest Service produced over	

				$678,000 in contracts in the Chadron/Crawford area for road and facility maintenance and construction. Payments to counties from receipts generated on national forests and grasslands (primarily livestock grazing) included for Dawes county: $9920.22 from national forest receipts and $818.53 from national grassland receipts. For Sioux county: $1061.66 from national forest receipts and $3140.04 from national grassland receipts.	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		Bessey RD and Bessey Nursery employ 14 permanent and 56 seasonal employees with a combined payroll of approximately $930,000 going into the Halsey, Thedford, Dunning, Nebraska economy primarily. In FY 2003, the Forest Service produced over $287,000 in maintenance and construction contracts at the Bessey Ranger District and Nursery. Payments to counties from receipts generated on national forests included: $1142.35 to Blaine county, $8,655.99 to Thomas county, and $19,013.76 to Cherry county.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Fall River RD		The Fall River RD employees 11 permanent and 14 seasonal employees with a combined payroll of nearly $560,000 going into the Hot Springs, SD area economy. The Fall River County Emergency Management is the recipient of one of these grants for $30,000 for an urban interface fire plan. Payments to counties from national grassland receipts included: $8556.51 to Fall River county and $2,101.88 to Custer county.	
		Wall RD		Wall RD employs eight permanent and seven seasonal employees with a combined payroll of $424,000 going into the Wall, SD area economy. The Forest Service awarded one construction contract for $12,000 in FY 2003. In 2003, the Wall Ranger District continued to work with the Wall School District to receive Federal Impact Aid from the Dept. of Education. Payments to counties from national grassland receipts included: $7,308.50 to Pennington county and $3898.49 to Jackson county.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Ft. Pierre NG		The Ft. Pierre NG employs six permanent and six seasonal employees for a combined payroll of $324,000 going into the local area economy. FY 2003 road maintenance contracts totaled $1950. Payments to counties from national grassland receipts included: $6,602.90 to Lyman county, $3,862.29 to Stanley county, and $2,164.40 to Jones county.	
LRMP Goal 2.c Miscellaneous Products Objective 1	**Miscellaneous Products 1:** To what extent is the demand for miscellaneous products being met?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	The Forest Service sold forty-six Christmas tree permits and five fuelwood permits for the Pine Ridge area in FY 2003.	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No monitoring completed for FY 2003.	
		Fall River RD		No permit applications denied. One approved for apiary use.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003	Evaluation
		Wall RD		No monitoring completed in FY2003.	
		Ft. Pierre NG		No monitoring completed in FY2003.	
LRMP Goal 2.c Scenery Objective 1	**Scenery 1:** To what extent have scenery management objectives been met?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years		
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No monitoring completed for FY 2003.	
		Fall River RD		No monitoring completed for FY 2003.	
		Wall RD		No monitoring completed in FY2003.	
		Ft. Pierre NG			
				No monitoring completed in FY2003.	

IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003
Endangered Species Act; LRMP Goal 4b Public and Organizational Relations Objective 2	**T&E:** Are actions identified in national recovery plans for threatened and endangered species being implemented where opportunities exist on national grasslands and forests?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	N/A
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		Blowout Penstemon Recovery Plan 600 plants transplanted to Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest
		Fall River RD		N/A
		Wall RD		Black-footed Ferret Recovery Plan The Wall Ranger District is actively working with the FWS and Badlands National Park in the recovery and reintroduction of the endangered black-footed ferret.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003
		Ft. Pierre NG		N/A
Agency Expectations; Public Expectations & Issues. LRMP Goal 3 Objectives 1, 2, & 3	**Administration:** Are the action plans identified in the objectives being completed on schedule?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		600 penstemon plants were planted at McKelvie but no monitoring of survival from previous plantings was completed.
		Fall River RD		No monitoring completed in 2003.
		Wall RD		No monitoring completed in 2003.
		Ft. Pierre NG		No monitoring completed in 2003.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003
Legal: 36 CFR 219.12 (k)	**Implementation Monitoring:** Have site-specific decisions been made to implement the Land & Resource Management Plan direction?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		AMP's are monitored yearly when meeting with the permittees during AOI's.
		Fall River RD		None completed for new plan
		Wall RD		In 2003, the initial year of monitoring indicates that all current site-specific decisions implement the LRMP direction for the Wall Ranger District.
		Ft. Pierre NG		

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003
Legal: 36 CFR 219.12 (k)1 & 3	**Outputs:** Are the projected annual outputs and services being met annually and at anticipated costs?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		
		Fall River RD		See annual MAR report
		Wall RD		See annual MAR report
		Ft. Pierre NG		MAR targets were met in FY03.

VALIDATION MONITORING

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003
Endangered Species Act; USDA	**Suggested Stocking Rates:** Are the	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Data is being collected but additional data is needed to complete a

Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.20Key Issue; Legal: 36 CFR 219.19(a)(6); 36 CFR 219.20; 36 CFR 219.27(5 and 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 2, 4, & 6	suggested stocking rate guidelines (Appendix I) providing the desired levels of vegetation structure and habitat for management indicator species and species at risk?			comprehensivel evaluation.
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		An additional year of data collection is needed before a comprehensive evaluation can be completed for the Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest
		Fall River RD		Baseline VOR data completed as part of annual survey work. Analysis/evaluation for each Geographic Area will be done during Range Allotment Management Planning efforts.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003
		Wall RD		The Wall Ranger District has established a random stratified sampling of vegetation structure across the three geographic areas. This sampling protocol monitors VORs vegetation structure on nearly 30,000 acres annually. 2003 is the first year of data for the analysis of how stocking levels are meeting the desired levels of vegetation structure. Additional data will need to be collected to complete a formal evaluation
		Ft. Pierre NG		Annual random VOR surveys of 10% of FPNG quarter-sections will provide a year-by-year view of vegetation structure on the grassland. As stated above, these surveys were accomplished in FY'03 and will be evaluated at the end of the five-year monitoring period.
36 CFR 219.19 and 219.20	**Wildlife:** How do residual cover levels measured in the fall relate to nesting cover	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No need – all grassland structure monitoring is occurring in the spring

	levels the following spring?			
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No need – all grassland structure monitoring is occurring in the spring
		Fall River RD		No fall to spring monitoring completed
		Wall RD		2003 is the first year of data for the analysis to determine how residual cover monitored in the fall relate to nesting cover the following spring.
		Ft. Pierre NG		In the past, administrative studies investigating the relationship between loss of visual obstruction from fall to spring have been done. No additional work of this kind was accomplished in FY'03.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003
Endangered Species Act; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; 36 CFR 219.19; LRMP Goal 1.b. Objectives 2 & 4	**Wildlife:** Are oil and gas stipulations effective, inadequate, or excessive in protecting and conserving raptors, prairie grouse, mountain plover, black-footed ferrets, bighorn sheep, and other wildlife species and their habitats?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	There were no oil and gas activities on the PRRD.
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		There were no oil and gas activities on the Bessey RD/ SR McKelvie NF
		Fall River RD		Surveys of existing oil and gas permits indicates stipulations were adequate.
		Wall RD		There were no oil and gas activities on the Wall Ranger District.
		Ft. Pierre NG		There were no oil and gas activities on

				the FPNG.
Legal 36 CFR 219.11 (d); LRMP Goal 1.b	**MIS:** Are the selected management indicator species and their response to management activities in habitats on local National Forest System lands adequately representing the management effects on other species in the associated response guilds and is the species membership identified for each response guild reasonably accurate and complete?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No comprehensive evaluations completed. The monitoring dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends in response to management activities on the Pine Ridge Ranger District. Data has been or is scheduled to be collected to establish a baseline to determine population trends for MIS species.
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie		No comprehensive evaluations completed.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2003
		Fall River RD		No comprehensive evaluations completed. Baseline data completed as part of annual survey work. Analysis for each Geographic Area will be done during Range Allotment Management Planning efforts.
		Wall RD		No comprehensive evaluations completed.
		Ft. Pierre NG		FPNG does annual surveys of displaying male sharp-tailed grouse and prairie chickens in an 18,000-acre unit to monitor population levels. Spring 2003 saw just over a 50% decrease from 2002, due to dry weather and reduced habitat the previous spring. Grouse wings were collected from hunters in boxes with explanatory signs to determine a bag ratio between the two species and to determine reproductive success. These methods show the relationship between populations of these MIS species and habitat, as measured as visual obstruction readings of grass structure. The size of colonies

				of prairie dogs—also an MIS—were also measured. However, no systematic studies were done that could have determined population relationships for associated species.

Evaluation

A priority for early 2005 will be to establish a Monitoring Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) as outlined in the introduction section of the LRMP Chapter 4. Responsibilities of the IDT will include establishing a work plan and budget to accomplish the monitoring expectations and requirements. The team will also be responsible for managing the collection and storage of data as well as working with cooperators to aid in data collection. A key responsibility will be to work with cooperators to evaluate the data and determine if, and to what degree, the monitoring questions are being answered. Finally, the team will produce and distribute the annual monitoring report.

Since the final administrative review of the appeals to the Revised LRMP was completed in May, 2004, with the results of the Secretary's discretionary review, project level decisions to implement the LRMP are only now being initiated. With the FY 2004 monitoring report, evaluation of the collected data will begin in earnest.